THE SPEECH OF Sr Edw. Turnor, Kt.

Speaker of the Honourable Houſe of COMMONS,

TO THE

KINGS

Moſt Excellent MAJESTY,

And both Houſes of

PARLIAMENT,

Delivered at Oxford, *on Tueſday the One and Thirtieth day of* October, 1665. *at the Prorogation of the Parliament.*

OXFORD,

Printed by *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the Vniverſity; for *John Bill*, & *Chriſtopher Barker*, His Majeſties Printers. 1665.

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May it pleaſe Your moſt Excellent Majeſty,

He Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, in obedience to Your Majeſties Writ of Adjournment, came cheerfully to this City of Oxford, *to receive Your Royal Commands: And when Your Majeſty was pleaſed to ſpeak to them, and acquaint them with Your great Expences this Summer, and the continuing Inſolencies of the* Dutch, *they were ſo inflamed with an*

Affection and Zeal for Your Majesties Service, that they could not suffer the least Punctо of time to pass, before they had made a Return suitable to their Engagements, That they would assist your Majesty with their Lives and Fortunes, against the Dutch, *or any others that should assist them, in opposition of your Majesty:* ---Tibi nos, tibi nostra suppellex--ruraque servierint.

The English Man useth to speak, as he writes; and the English Parliament, to speak as they think: No security upon Earth can be greater then the Engagement of your Two Houses of Parliament: Sed quid verba audiam, dum facta videam? *As a Demonstration of their Fidelity, I am Commanded to present unto your Majesty this Bill, whereby they have given you for a present Supply, Twelve hundred and fifty thousand pounds, to be levyed in two Years; to begin from* Christmas *next, by Quarterly Payments added to the former* Royal Aid.

And to the end your Majesties Occasions may be supplyed with ready Money, before this additional Aid can be raised, We have by this Bill prepared an undoubted Security, for all such Persons as shall bring their Money into the Publick Bank of your Exchequer. As the Rivers do naturally empty themselves into the Sea, so We hope the Veins of Gold and Silver in this Nation, will plentifully run into this Ocean, for the Maintenance of your Majesties just Soveraignity on the Seas.

Great Sir! *When first We besought Your Majesty to correct the Insolencies, and to repair your Subjects against the Rapines of the* Dutch; *We did reasonably suppose, That the Justice of your Majesties Demands, would, at least, have had a fair and ingenious Reception: But the* Dutch *resolved, with Ma-*

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chiavil, to keep by Force what they had got by Wrong, and to return their Answer by the Thundring voice of their Canon. The Great GOD of Hosts, to whom Vengeance belongs, hath eminently appeared in your Majesties Quarrel, and sharply rebuked the insolence of that proud People, whose heart is hardened even to destruction.

Tis true our sins doe cry aloud, as well as theirs; But God is pleased in mercy to correct us himself, whilst by our hands he doth punish them, and make them fly before us: I hope this mercy will invite us to a National Repentance: And if God be with us, who then can be against us?

We cannot but take notice of the Sordid defection of some English fugitives who have trayterously joyned with the Dutch, both in their Counsels and Actions against your Majesty, and this their native Country; We therefore have prepared a Bill, whereby they are injoyned to returne by a day, and answer to the Law, or else they shall be attainted, and be subject to the pains and penalties of condemned Traytors.

It hath been an old observation, that Scandalous livings make Scandalous Ministers; and this most frequently fals out in Cities and Corporate Towns, where are little or no prædial Tythes, and therefore the Preachers for meer want are forced to chaunt such tunes as may best please the Rich men in their Parishes: For prevention of this for the future, there is a Bill prepared for the uniting of small Churches and Chappels in Cities and Towns Corporate, by the consent of the Patron, reserving all other Parochial rites distinct as they were before.

This being a time wherein your Majesty needs great supplyes, We held it our duty to ease the People in

ſome unneceſſary Expences; and therefore we have prepared a Bill for the more effectuall proceeding upon diſtreſſes and Avowryes for Rents; another to avoid Circuity of Actions; and a third, to leſſen the charge of neceſſary Suits in Law: There is an ancient fee received in your Majeſties Courts of Law, called Damage cleare, or Damna Clericorum, *which is the tenth peny of ſuch Damages as are there recoverd in many actions: This was firſt introduced for the encouragement of Clerks, to employ themſelves to the ſtudy of drawing ſpecial Pleadings, which are grown ſo familiar by the diſ-uſe of real actions, that the Fee now is looked upon as a grievance: eſpecially when the Plaintiff is forced to pay it upon the ſigning of his Judgment, and perhaps the Defendant is not able to anſwer any part of the Execution: therefore we have prepared a Bill for the regulating of this for the preſent, and after ſeven years to take it quite away.*

Tacitus *hath a Saying,* Such as are falſe in their love, are true in their hate: *and this Rule we finde verifyed in our Non-conformiſts: Whilſt they were in the Boſom of the Church of* England, *they were like inward Vapours, and inward Bleedings, always oppreſſing and ſtrangling the Body of the Church; and now they are ejected and excluded from their Miniſterial Function, they have more malice, and no leſs opportunity to propogate their Principles then they had before. Some of them are Objects of pity, they ſubmitted their Reaſon to their Leaders; of a higher Claſſis, who failed them in their hopes, and left them to the rigour of the Law: Theſe poor Creatures have ſeen their Error, and feel the ſmart, and would live peaceably; but their Jeſuitical Leaders keep up their Spirits, and herd with them in Cities*

ties and Corporate Towns, where, by pretence of Persecution, and Self-denyal, they move the pitty of good natur'd people, and with their charity keep up their party, lessen the maintenance of Conforming Ministers, and spread their contagion amongst the Youth of the Nation: For the prevention of this growing mischief, we have prepared a Shiboleth, a Test to distinguish amongst them, who will be peaceable, and give hopes of future Conformity, and who of Malice and evil disposition remain Obdurate. The one we shall keep amongst us with all Love and Charity, the other we shall exclude from Cities and Corporate Towns, like those that have an infectious disease upon them.

It is not unusual for the Commons at the close of a Session of Parliament by their Speaker, to present a Petition to their Soveraign: and with your Majesties leave, I am now commanded that Service.

We doe with all humble thankfulness to God, acknowledge our great happiness that we are govern'd by a Prince, whose Prudence in Counsel, whose Valour in Action, and whose Fatherly Care in Protection of his People, is Eminent through all the World: And it is not the least mercy, both to Your Majesty and Your People, that God hath blessed You with a Brother so like Your self.

The name of his Royal Highness is already Inroll'd amongst the Heroes of other Nations; but this his Native Country had not so great experience of Him, till Your Majesty was pleased in this Summers expedition to trust Him with the Conduct of the most Royal Fleet that ever sailed upon the Brittish *Seas; wherein He shewed that Prowess, and that Prudence, & by the blessing of Almighty God, was Crowned with that Success against the* Dutch, *that we cannot pass it by in si-*

lence, & yet we are at a loss how to express our Thanks both to Your Majesty, and to him: I am commanded therefore to beseech Your Majesty, that You will vouchsafe to let us make a Present to you, of a months Tax, to come in the Rear, after the four and twenty Months of Your Majesties Royal Ayd, *and that your Majesty will be pleased to bestow it upon his Royal Highness.*

And now, Great Sr *I have no more, but to beseech Almighty God, who hath so miraculously preserved your Royal Person, and your two Houses of Parliament from all Sickness, and Contagion, during this Session, that he will be pleased to send health throughout the Nation, that he will Crown all your Designes against your Enemies with Victory and Success, and give your Majestie a long and Happy Raign over us.*

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